



**POLICY STATEMENT 88
FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION**

POLICY DIGEST

**Primary Monitoring Unit: Student Affairs
Initially Issued: December 21, 2018
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I. GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

Louisiana State University at Eunice (hereafter “LSU Eunice”) is fully committed to free speech among students, faculty, staff, and visitors. To fulfill our primary role of discovering and disseminating knowledge, a free interchange of ideas is necessary. LSU Eunice prides itself on upholding of free expression and believes that a culture of intense inquiry and informed argument generates lasting ideas. This freedom comes with a responsibility to welcome and promote expression for all people and all ideas, even when in disagreement or opposition.

LSU Eunice unequivocally supports and endorses free speech and free expression among its students, faculty, and staff. The University strives to ensure the fullest degree of intellectual freedom and free expression on campus. It is not the proper role of the University to shield individuals from speech protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and [Article I, Section 7](#), of the Constitution of Louisiana, and other applicable laws, including without limitation ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive. Students and faculty have the freedom to discuss any topic that presents itself, as provided under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution of Louisiana and as other applicable laws permit, in a manner which does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the University and within the limits on time, place, and manner of expression stated herein.

It is for the individual members of the University community, not for the University as an institution, to judge the value of ideas, and to act on those judgments — not by seeking to suppress speech, but by openly and civilly contesting those arguments and ideas that they oppose. Encouraging members of the University community to engage with each other in an effective and responsible manner is an essential part of the University's educational mission.

The freedom to debate and discuss the merits of competing ideas does not mean that individuals may say whatever they wish, wherever they wish. The University prohibits expression that violates the law, defames a specific individual, constitutes a genuine threat, violates the Student Code of Conduct, or unjustifiably invades substantial privacy or confidentiality interests. In addition, the University may reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of expression to ensure that it does not disrupt the educational activities and mission of the institution.

43 **II. PUBLIC AREAS**

44 The “Public Areas” of Campus mean all Outdoor Areas. The “Outdoor Areas” mean outside
45 areas generally accessible to the majority of students, administrators, faculty, and staff such as
46 grassy areas, walkways, or other similar common areas, but do not include University facilities,
47 the interior of buildings or areas where access is restricted. The Public Areas of campus are
48 deemed by State law as traditional public forums and are open on the same terms to any
49 speaker.

50 On Public Areas, students and faculty may assemble, distribute literature, and engage in
51 spontaneous expressive activity as long as such activity is not unlawful and does not materially
52 and substantially disrupt the functioning of the University. Any person lawfully present on
53 campus in a Public Area may protest or demonstrate there. Protests and demonstrations that
54 infringe upon the constitutional rights of others to engage in or listen to expressive activity by
55 creating a substantial and material disruption to the functioning of the institution or to someone’s
56 expressive activity shall not be permitted. Certain University facilities are made available for
57 reservation. This policy does not apply to University-sponsored activities.

58 **III. TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER RESTRICTIONS**

59 In order to maintain safety, security, and order, the University reserves the right to limit such
60 activities by the following regulations regarding time, place, and manner of such activities.
61 Except as allowed by law, the University shall not apply these restrictions in a discriminatory
62 manner toward the content of the view being expressed or the speaker, or in any manner that
63 otherwise infringes on any form of speech or conduct that is protected by the First Amendment.

64 **IV. STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

65 “Student Organization” means an officially recognized group or a group seeking official
66 recognition, comprised of admitted students at LSU Eunice. The Office of Student Affairs
67 maintains an updated list of all officially recognized student organizations and all groups in the
68 process of seeking official recognition.

69 **V. GROUP EXPRESSION**

70 If an individual or group of individuals attracts a group of 20 or more persons, then a
71 representative from the group is encouraged to contact LSU Eunice Police and Campus
72 Security as soon as circumstances reasonably permit. The University reserves the right to direct
73 a group of 20 or more persons to another available Public Area in order to ensure the safety of
74 campus members, to provide for proper crowd control, and to limit disruption of the academic
75 and other operations of the University. Any relocation must not be based on the content or
76 viewpoint of the expression.

77 **VI. EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS**

78 The use of amplified sound is subject to local ordinances and is restricted to those times and
79 places where it will not impact educational activities or University business. During concentrated
80 study periods, the use of amplified sound is prohibited. This policy does not provide for the use
81 of University resources (tables, utilities, equipment, etc.) in the exercise of free speech or
82 expression activities.

83 **VII. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES**

84 At a minimum, expressions, assemblies, or demonstrations may not:

- 85 A. Engage in provocations by fighting words or incitements to engage in immediate
86 violence;
- 87 B. Make threats which demonstrate a serious expression of intent to commit an act of
88 unlawful violence to a particular individual or group of individuals;
- 89 C. Interfere with the free and unimpeded flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic on campus
90 or the entry or exit into and out of University facilities;
- 91 D. Materially and substantially disrupt the educational mission or the normal activities of the
92 University;
- 93 E. Express or exhibit obscenity as defined by law;
- 94 F. Advocate the deliberate violation of law by preparing the group addressed for imminent
95 action and seeing it to such action.
- 96 G. Engage in commercial or for-profit activities absent a prior written agreement with the
97 University authorizing such activities.

98 **VIII. ADMINISTRATION/ENFORCEMENT**

99 This policy shall be administered and enforced by the chief Student Affairs officer at LSU
100 Eunice, the LSU Eunice Police and Campus Security, and such other University officials as shall
101 be designated. Visitors to the campus and all others violating these regulations regarding time,
102 place, and manner of speech and demonstration will be subject to immediate eviction or
103 removal from the campus without further warning by appropriate University agents or officials
104 and may be subject to appropriate legal action. Individual students or student organizations
105 violating these regulations may be subject to action by the Office of Student Affairs.

106 **IX. NON-ENDORSEMENT/RATIFICATION**

107 Nothing in this policy is intended nor should be understood as an endorsement or approval by
108 LSU Eunice of any speech or demonstration, an invitation or license to speak or demonstrate, or
109 the granting of any right or permission to speak or demonstrate on campus beyond the rights
110 existing under federal and state law. For more information, contact the chief Student Affairs
111 officer.

112 **X. APPEAL PROCEDURE**

113 Any person aggrieved by a violation of this policy may file a written appeal of the decision or
114 action to the chief Student Affairs officer, or designee, within fourteen (14) calendar days of the
115 decision or action. The University shall provide a written response to the appellant within
116 fourteen (14) days of receipt of the appeal unless, for good cause, additional time is needed to
117 ascertain facts or speak with the appellant or relevant officials. The decision of the chief Student
118 Affairs officer shall be final.

119 **XI. SUPERSEDING POLICY**

120 This policy supersedes and nullifies any provision in the policies and regulations of the
121 University that restricts speech on campus and is therefore inconsistent with this policy on free
122 expression.

123 **XII. SOURCES**

124 This policy is adopted pursuant to [Louisiana R.S. 17:3399.31](#), et seq. and the 2018 [Board of](#)
125 [Regents Uniform Policy on Campus Free Speech](#). It follows [LSU Permanent Memorandum 79:](#)
126 [Freedom of Speech and Expression](#) (November 8, 2018).